

ON BOARD BATTLESHIP

The following letter was received by Mr. and Mrs. O. B. Dealing from their nephew, Joseph Curtiss of Toledo, who is now with the U. S. S. Indiana, "Somewhere on the Atlantic Coast." The letter deals interestingly of life on a big battleship, and the Sentinel is glad of the opportunity of publishing it:

November 27, 1917.
(Passed by censor)
U. S. S. Indiana.
Dear Aunt Em and Uncle Orve:
I am going to take time to write you a few lines today, and I am going to try to make this letter as interesting as I possibly can. There is not very much news from here and practically none that I dare write. We

are having our first really cold weather now, and it sure is "some cold." The salt water freezes as soon as it hits the deck. The spray coming over the bow of the ship has formed a sheet of ice on the fore'side, and it is quite slippery.

Well, I think that I will try and describe a days work on board a battleship.

At six a. m. "veille" is sounded and "all hands rise and shine," or to eliminate the slang, they get out of their hammocks, and "lash and stow," or tie and place it in the designated places. After stowing their hammocks the men all wash themselves and then they "turn to" or work, that is, sweep the decks and clean them, that takes them until about 7:15 a. m., then they wash their faces and hands and have "chow" or breakfast.

Now those men of the "black gang," or of the engineers' division, who were on watch the night before, may "sleep in" until 7 a. m., and do not have to assist with the cleaning up of the ship; they have already done their "bit" by standing a four-hour watch. I am assigned to the dynamo room and am, of course, a member of the black gang. We stand four hours on watch and then we have eight hours to ourselves (that is, when the marines are all in good condition), and then we have four hours more of work and eight hours off of

watch again. It continues this way all the time. I presume that you know that the dynamo room is the place where the electric current is made which is used on an endless number of contrivances on board a ship. It is used for lighting, heating, operating blowers, turning turrets, hoisting ammunition, operating deck winches, peeling potatoes, pressing clothes, washing clothes and countless other things too numerous to mention. I still have forgotten one thing, which I will explain the use of later, and that is, that it is used to sound alarms.

We have three generators on this ship, which are sure some classy machines.

There is a great deal of work to be done on a battleship. For the electricians, this work consists of keeping the generators running and also keep the different contrivances in first class running order. At various times during the day and night, alarms are sounded and the evolutions performed, merely to prepare us for a time when it might mean the saving of the ship and perhaps the lives of the crew. When we are least expecting it these calls are sounded, and the first warning we have is, when the bells which are placed in different parts of the ship "start ringing." When these bells start ringing we all run to our "general quarters," or battle stations.

All water tight doors are closed three minutes after the alarm is sounded. The bells continue to ring until "recall" or "secure" is sounded. We must learn to recognize the different drills by the bugle calls, which means, "torpedo defense," or "fire," or "collision," and a man must be able to distinguish the difference between these calls, as the men do not report at the same place for all of the drills.

Then comes a call at 11:45 a. m., which is a delight to all of the fellows. Yes, you guessed it right, Aunt Em, it is "mess gear;" the tables are taken

off of the swinging racks which support them and placed on the deck, and the "gear," or knives, forks, spoons, plates and cups distributed on them. Each table accommodates ten men. Each "mess cook" or waiter has two tables to take care of. He has to set them and keep the plates filled up. After mess he has to wash the dishes and clean up the tables and replace it in its rack. The men are allowed to smoke or do whatever they want to until 1:00 p. m. At that time they must turn to and perform all of the necessary work until 4:30 p. m., after which they are through for the day and night. They can smoke or do whatever they want to until 7:00 p. m., at which time they "blow hammocks," or rather the bugle sounds hammocks, and all of the men, except those who are on watch, swing their hammocks and prepare to "turn in" for the night. At 7:30 p. m. "sick call" is sounded, and any one who wishes medical attention can go to the "sick bay," which is really a hospital on board the ship. There they can obtain the very best of medical attention. I forgot to mention that "sick call" is also sounded at 8:30 a. m. At 9:00 p. m. all lights that are not necessary must be turned out and every one must "pipe down," which means stop talking, and also stop making all unnecessary noise. The ship becomes very quiet and about 700 men dream about the fun they will have when this war is over.

A great many of the fellows have a hard time getting used to sleeping in their hammocks. These hammocks have a bad habit of suddenly moving out from under a fellow and dropping him to the deck. It only takes a short time to get used to "riding" them, however. I think that it is about time

for me to close now so I will try to condense the rest of the news.

Of course you already know that we have to wash all of our own clothes. It really does seem strange to the inexperienced to step into the wash-room and see all of the fellows washing clothes. We do really become proficient in that wonderful art of washing clothes. We must be clean at all times, for the first law of the navy is to be clean and clean shaven at all times. They do not accept excuses from a fellow who comes up for inspection with a spot of dirt on himself or his clothes.

Joseph Curtiss.

OBITUARY

Josiah Hoff was born in Milton township, Wayne county, Ohio, Oct. 30, 1841, and died at his home in Medina, November 25, 1917, aged 76 years, and 26 days. He was one of 12 children, five of whom—two brothers and three sisters—are still living. At the age of 19 he enlisted in Co. K, 16th Reg. O. V. I., and served his country for three years, at the end of which time he was honorably discharged. Early in life he united with the Lutheran church in Wayne county, but in 1894 he became a member of the Congregational church of Medina. He was united in marriage to Harriet Wissler of Milton township, Wayne county, on March 22, 1866. To this union seven children were born, five sons and two daughters, and these, together with his wife and 12 grandchildren, survive him. The funeral was held from the home Tuesday afternoon, Nov. 27, and burial in Spring Grove cemetery.

OBITUARY

Harrison Hammon was born in Litchfield township, Medina county, O., Aug. 7, 1887, and died in the hospital at Port Clinton, Ohio, Dec. 4, 1917, being 30 years, 3 months and 27 days old.

He was baptized in infancy in the German Lutheran church at Liverpool, Ohio. He attended church at the Congregational church of Litchfield.

He had spent most of his life on the home farm. Some time ago he went to Florida, invested in land and afterwards spent several years, especially winters, there, taking care of his fine apple land.

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On Sept. 12, he was called to the colors. Ready and willingly did he answer the summons. On Sept. 25, he entered the national training camp at Camp Sherman, Chillicothe, O. in Co. C, 332d Infantry. He was there until Nov. 20, when his regiment was transferred to Camp Perry, O. Just a week from that time, apparently in good health, he was suddenly taken seriously ill with spinal meningitis. He was seized with convulsions, was unconscious from the first and suffered much agonizing pain.

His captain sent a telegram home saying "Harrison is seriously ill at Port Clinton hospital." His mother and sister went at once. Anxiously and hopefully did his mother watch and wait, hoping a time would come when he would recognize her, but in vain. At 3 a. m. Tuesday morning, Dec. 4, after just a week of untold suffering, was this soldier boy's short career ended.

It mattered not whether he was at home or elsewhere, he put his shoulder to the wheel and worked with a will. He was a loving son and brother. He always had a smile, and was ready and willing to help any one.

He leaves to mourn their loss a mother, (the father having preceded him in death seven years), three sisters, Allie, Cora and Mrs. S. C. Colburn of Huntington, W. Va. and a brother, John, besides a host of relatives and friends.

The funeral was held from the home Thursday afternoon, conducted by Rev. O. C. Bedford. There were many beautiful floral offerings, among them a military piece—a broken shaft, bearing the words, "On Fame's Eternal Camping Ground His Silent Tent is Spread."

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

Edith Chatfield and Rilla B. Peet who reside at Coalinga, California, will take notice that P. W. Foskett as administrator of the estate of Sarah M. Foskett deceased, on the... day of June, 1917, filed his petition in the probate court of Medina County, Ohio, against the said Edith Chatfield and Rilla B. Peet and others, alleging that the personal estate of the said deceased is insufficient to pay her debts and the charges of administering her estate; that she died seized in fee simple of an undivided one-half of the south part of lot number one hundred and twenty-nine in Medina Village, Montville township side, Medina County, Ohio; that P. W. Foskett the widower is entitled to dower in said estate, and that the Trustees of Comet Lodge No. 66 K. of P. of Medina, Ohio, claim to hold a mortgage thereon for \$700.00. The prayer of the petition is for the assignment of dower, that mortgage be required to answer setting forth their claim, and that said property be ordered sold to pay the debts and charges against said estate. Edith Chatfield and Rilla B. Peet are hereby notified that they have been made defendants to said proceeding and that they are required to answer on or before the 19th day of December, 1917.

F. W. WOODS, 13w6 Atty. for Plaintiff.

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